



**Testimony of Sean Bradbury**  
Legislative Program Manager  
**Connecticut State Colleges & Universities**  
To the Higher Education and Employment  
Advancement Committee  
March 8, 2016

## **SB 333: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION OF CONSTITUENT UNITS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, Senator Witkos, Representative Betts and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 333: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION OF CONSTITUENT UNITS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION on behalf of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. While the CSCU system supports the intent and the goals of this legislation, there are minor and technical changes we would like the Committee to consider.

First, to conform with the technical changes in our enabling statutes we are seeking this year, we respectfully request that the language in Section 1 subsection 3 be changed to read:

(3) If the constituent unit is the [Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges or the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System] Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the purposes of the foundation shall be limited to providing funding for (A) scholarships or other direct student financial aid, and (B) programs, services or activities at one or more of the institutions within its jurisdiction;

As the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities work toward a collective identity, any change that clearly depicts the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities as the collective umbrella for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College, should also be reflected with respect to a CSCU Foundation which has but two purposes: (i) providing funding for scholarships or other direct student financial aid, and (ii) providing funding programs, services or activities at one or more of the institutions within the system. The change as originally proposed appears technical but may have the unintended consequence of limiting the ability of our individual foundations to function.

Second, some of our foundations are incredibly small, with no full time staff. One of our foundations has less than \$400,000 in total assets. We would like to work with the Committee to establish a threshold that would make sure that our smallest foundations are not burdened with reporting requirements that they may not have the staff or resources to generate.

We thank the Committee for its attention to this matter and are grateful for this opportunity to provide feedback on areas which are concerning to our campuses' foundations.